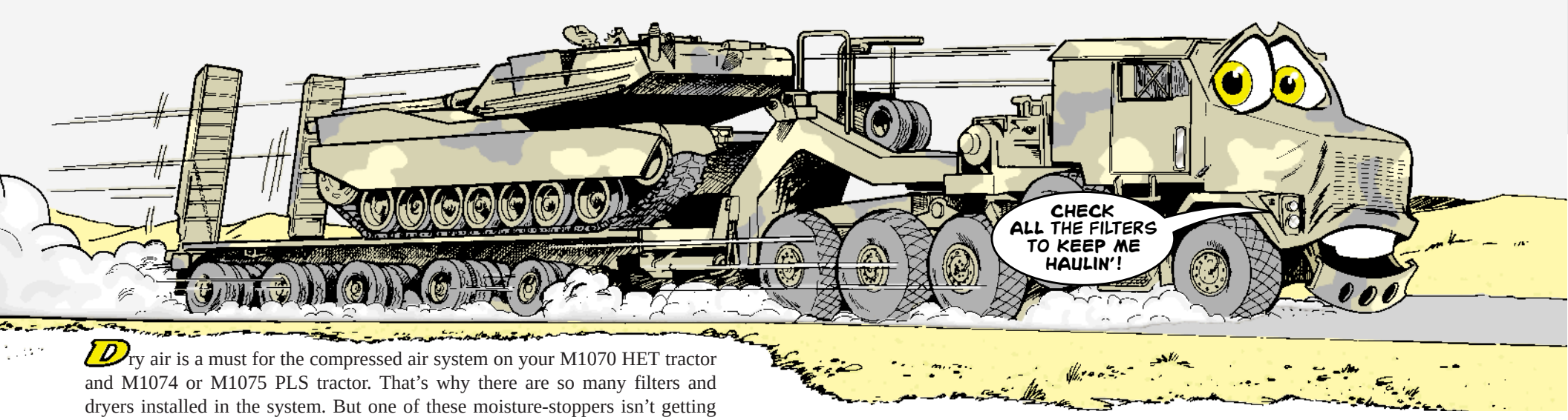
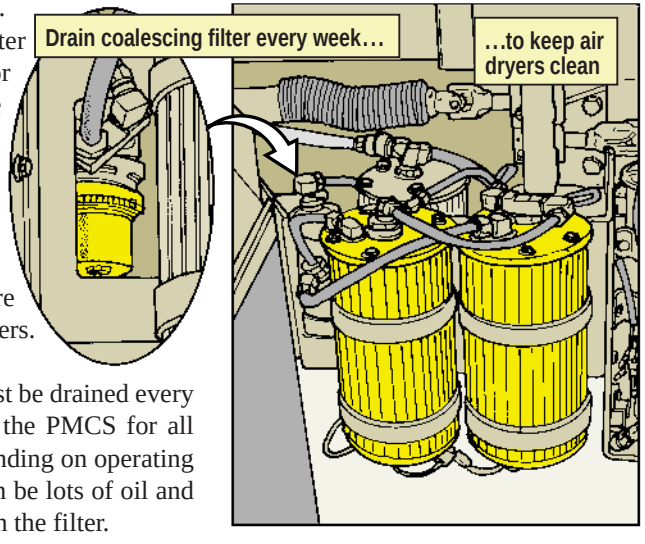
Keeping the Air Dry



Dry air is a must for the compressed air system on your M1070 HET tractor and M1074 or M1075 PLS tractor. That's why there are so many filters and dryers installed in the system. But one of these moisture-stoppers isn't getting the PM it must have.

The coalescing filter is the second stop for air after it leaves the compressor. (The first stop is the aftercooler.) The filter removes oil and moisture from pressurized air before it goes to the air dryers.



In regular use, the coalescing filter must be drained every week, according to the PMCS for all three tractors. Depending on operating conditions, there can be lots of oil and moisture collected in the filter.

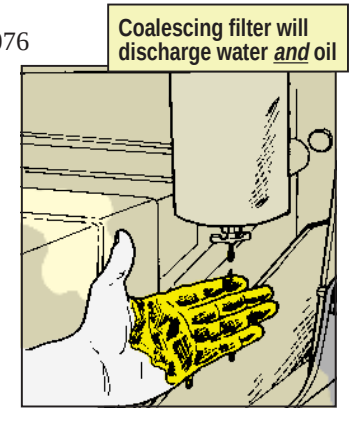
The draining is not happening, however. Over time, as the filter fills up with oil and moisture, less filtering is done. That passes oil to the air dryers, causing them to get dirty and clogged quicker than normal.

When the air dryers can't handle the wet, oily air coming from the coalescing filter, they just pass it on to the reservoirs. Assuming the reservoirs are drained daily as required by PMCS, operators will notice more and more water coming from them.

Regardless, in operation the wet air gets passed through the entire compressed air system, including the air system of any trailer hooked up to the tractors.

This has caused clogging of the spider valves on the M1000 HET trailer, which defeats the suspension system that makes the trailer so valuable in hauling tanks. It can also cause brake failure.

Wet air will also clog the air system on M1076 PLS trailers, reducing their braking capabilities.



You can stop all this damage by draining the coalescing filter weekly as called for in your truck's PMCS. If you haven't drained it lately, don't be surprised if you get a slimy mess in the container you use. A little bit is OK. The filter's doing its job.

Let your mechanic know if you get a steady stream of this stuff coming from the filter. He'll need to check the other air filtering and drying components in the system for damage.